THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The number of powerloom units of Tamil Nadu that have availed TUFS loan since its launching, year wise is as under:—

Year	Applications sanctioned	
	Under the 5% Interest Reimbursement & 15% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Schemes	Under the 20% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme
1999-2003	42	**
2003-04	8	0
2004-05	13	10
2005-06	10	19
2006-07	16	19
	(1st of April to 30th of June)	(As on 17.08.2006)
TOTAL:	89	48

** The Scheme was not in operation at that time. It was introduced in September 2003.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal of the Union Government to launch any special scheme for the State of Tamilnadu to help small weavers to switch over from handlooms to powerlooms. The existing policy of the Government is to promote both the sectors. However, the above Schemes do not debar any handloom owner to switch over to powerlooms.

Export of textile products

2873. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Miniter of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of exports and imports pertaining to textiles during the last three years showing the foreign exchanges involved;

(b) the steps taken to curtail imports of textiles; and

(c) the facilities/assistance provided for exporting textile products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The details of exports and imports pertaining to textiles during the last three years are given below:

(In million US Dollars)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06(P)
Textile exports	13496.31	14026.72	17079.57
Textile imports	2034	2266.15	2699.23

(P) Provisions Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

(b) and (c) In the atmosphere of liberalization, the imports are governed by market forces subject to export-import policy in force from time to time. Presently, India's textile imports are not significant, and are less than 16% of textile exports.

Government has imposed a combination of *ad-valorem* and specific duty on 'whichever is higher basis' on import of number of textiles and clothing items to safeguard the interests of domestic industry from cheap imports. In addition, the Government has been taking continuous measures to safeguard the interests of the industry and to boost textile exports. Some of the important initiatives taken in this regard are as follows:—

(i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.

(ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.

(iii) The technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iv) A new Scheme namely "Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks" has been formulated by merging "Scheme for apparel Parks for Exports" and "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" in order to expand the production base of textile and garment sector. The Scheme envisages to create 25 Textile Parks of international standard at potential growth centres of India by 2007-08.

(v) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given an option of excise exemption.

(vi) The import of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at a concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.

(vii) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items are allowed to the garment exporters, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.

(viii) For the speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced, w.e.f. 20.4.2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

(ix) The National Institute for Technology (NIFT), its seven branches, and the Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet the skilled manpower requirements of the textile industry, especially apparel, in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(x) Facilities like eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get garments/textiles pre-tested so that they conform to the requirements of the importing countries.

Low cotton yarn yield

2874. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India even though a major producer of cotton yarn and fibre, the production of cotton, as measured by yield, has been found to be lower than that in many countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost textile sector in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Though in terms of area, India is ranking first in the world and in terms of cotton production is ranking third, after China and USA, still the yield per hectare for cotton in the country is lower as compared to world average yield. However, since